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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/785,004	02/25/2004	Masaki Matsumoto	107439-00105	9745

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Washington, DC 20036-5339

EXAMINER

CHAMPAGNE, LUNA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3627

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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09/14/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/785,004	Applicant(s) MATSUMOTO ET AL.	
	Examiner Luna Champagne	Art Unit 3627	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 August 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 February 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☒ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>8/18/06</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Armington et al. (US 6,877,297 B2), in view of Sakayori et al. (US 2002/0002516 A1), in further view of Bloom (US 6,974,928 B2), and in further view of Aoki (5,325,304).

Re claims 1 and 7, Armington et al. disclose a parts kit production support system / program of making a computer execute an operation, for supporting production of a parts kit in which predetermined parts are packaged together (*See e.g. col. 48, lines 48-50 – a method of packaging a plurality of items in one or more containers*), comprising: an order database for storing, in advance, order data which indicates data of the parts kit required by an orderer, and specification data which indicates data of parts included in the parts kit (*See e.g. col. 45, lines 51-59*); a collection instructing section for outputting a collection instruction sheet according to the data stored in the order database when completion of the reception of the specific parts to be packaged together is confirmed, wherein the collection instruction sheet includes data of the parts to be packaged together and the shelf position identification data (*See e.g. col. 5, lines 56-64*).

Armington et al. do not explicitly disclose a stock database for storing data of stocked parts; a reception accepting section for associating parts slip data with the order data and storing the associated data into the order database, wherein the parts slip data, input using a terminal, is data of a parts slip which is appended to each received unit of parts; a reception slip issuing section for issuing, according to the data stored in the order database, a reception slip in which parts identification data for identifying the received parts are described.

However, Sakayori et al. disclose a stock database for storing data of stocked parts (*See e.g. paragraph 0033 - a database which stores a number of specific parts contained in inventory*); a reception accepting section for associating parts slip data with the order data and storing the associated data into the order database, wherein the parts slip data, input using a terminal, is data of a parts slip which is appended to each received unit of parts; a reception slip issuing section for issuing, according to the data stored in the order database, a reception slip in which parts identification data for identifying the received parts are described (*See e.g. paragraph 0039- 0040 managing receipt of an order and issuance of an order –display step and icon for identifying receipt*).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to modify Armington et al., to include a stock database, a reception accepting section and a reception slip issuing section, as taught by Sakayori et al., in order to classify and organize data needed to accelerate the packaging process.

Armington et al., in view of Sakayori, do not explicitly disclose a stock management section for associating the parts identification data, which is described in the reception slip and is input using a terminal, with shelf position identification data which is also input using a terminal and is individually assigned to a shelf on which the relevant parts are stored, and storing the associated data into the stock database;

However, Bloom discloses a stock management section for associating the parts identification data, which is described in the reception slip and is input using a terminal, with shelf position identification data which is also input using a terminal and is individually assigned to a shelf on which the relevant parts are stored, and storing the associated data into the stock database (*see e.g. col. 3, lines 8-28*).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to modify Armington et al., in view of Sakayori et al., and include a stock management section for associating the parts identification data, which is described in the reception slip and is input using a terminal, with shelf position identification data which is also input using a terminal and is individually assigned to a shelf on which the relevant parts are stored, and storing the associated data into the stock database, as taught by Bloom, in order to facilitate the retrieval of needed parts.

Armington et al., in view of Sakayori, and in further view of Bloom do not explicitly disclose a stock state confirming section for confirming a date of shipment of the parts kit according to the data stored in the order database, and confirming, according to the data stored in the stock database, whether reception of specific parts to be packaged in

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the parts kit has been completed by a predetermined number of days before the date of shipment.

However, Aoki discloses a stock state confirming section for confirming a date of shipment of the parts kit according to the data stored in the order database, and confirming, according to the data stored in the stock database, whether reception of specific parts to be packaged in the parts kit has been completed by a predetermined number of days before the date of shipment (*see e.g. col. 5, lines 32-41*).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to modify Armington et al., in view of Sakayori, and Bloom, to include a stock state confirming section for confirming a date of shipment of the parts kit according to the data stored in the order database, and confirming, according to the data stored in the stock database, whether reception of specific parts to be packaged in the parts kit has been completed by a predetermined number of days before the date of shipment, ^{in view of Aoki,} in order to integrate efficient scheduling and customer satisfaction into the system.

Re claim 2, Armington et al. disclose a parts kit production support system, further comprising: an insufficient parts confirming section for outputting a list of insufficient parts together with data of one or more manufacturers of the insufficient parts when the reception of the specific parts to be packaged together has not been completed (*See e.g. col. 49, lines 28-31*).

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Re claim 3, Armington et al. disclose a parts kit production support system, further comprising: a packaging specification database for storing, in advance, specification of packaging for the parts to be packaged together; and a packaging instructing section for outputting, according to the data stored in the packaging specification database, a packaging instruction sheet for instructing packaging of the parts described in the collection instruction sheet (*See e.g. col. 4, lines 22-34*).

Re claim 4, Armington et al. disclose a parts kit production support system, further comprising: a contents specification output section for outputting, according to data for indicating and identifying the parts to be packaged together, a specification which includes contents specification of the parts to be packaged together and is attached to the parts kit, wherein the data for indicating and identifying the parts to be packaged together is described in the packaging instruction sheet and is input using a terminal (*See e.g. col. 2, lines 61-67*).

Re claims 5 and 6, Armington et al. disclose a parts kit production support system, wherein at least one of the parts slip data, the parts identification data, and the shelf position identification data is indicated by a barcode; wherein the data for indicating and identifying the parts to be packaged together is indicated by a barcode (*See e.g. col. 46, lines 3-8*).

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. et al. Gleditsch (US 6,415,195 B1), Chucta (4,669,047), Ashara et al. (5,528,489), Littl et al. (5,148,370).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Luna Champagne whose telephone number is (571) 272-7177. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8:30 - 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Florian Zeender can be reached on (571) 272-6790. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Luna Champagne
Examiner
Art Unit 3627

September 5, 2007

 9/10/07
F. RYAN ZEENDER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER